BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 08-32 August 8th, 2008

- **BC's jobless rate inches down to 4.4% as employment rises in July**
- **Building permits slip 6.1% in June**
- **Room revenues inch down 0.2% in April**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage point to 4.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July as the province posted a marginal increase in employment (+2,800 people, or 0.1%), while the size of the labour force was unchanged from June.**

Labour market conditions in the province remain robust compared to the rest of the country. The Canadian economy shed 55,000 jobs last month, following a 5,000-strong reduction in June. This was the biggest single-month drop since the recession at the beginning of the 1990s. The Canadian unemployment rate fell slightly (to 6.1%), as did Ontario's (to 6.4%), only because the labour force shrank more than employment.

The job losses in July were largely localized in Quebec (-29,700) and Ontario (-18,900) but Alberta (-6,800) and Saskatchewan (-4,200) also posted significant employment declines. In percentage terms, the biggest declines occurred in PEI (-1.6%), Quebec (-0.8%) and Saskatchewan (-0.6%). The drop in employment in both Ontario and Alberta was more modest (-0.3%).

Canada's unemployment rate inched down to 6.1% in July, as job losses were offset by similar declines in the size of the labour force. Although Alberta's jobless rate rose 0.3 percentage points to 3.6% in July, it remained the lowest in the country. Manitoba (3.8%) was the only other province where the jobless rate was lower than in BC. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **After three months of decline, the number of jobs in BC's goods-producing industries increased (+1.7%, *seasonally adjusted*) in July, boosted by a rebound in construction (+2.4%) and more modest growth (+0.8%) in the number of manufacturing jobs.** Employment in forestry, fishing and mining (+2.5%) also picked up after two months of decline. However, there were fewer service sector jobs (-0.3%). Retail and wholesale trade, accounting for one in five service sector jobs, employed 2.6% fewer people in July. Transportation & warehousing (-3.9%) and professional, scientific & technical services (-4.2%) also cut back. However, employment rebounded in finance, insurance & real estate (+7.2%), and information, culture & recreation (+5.7%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **More men (+0.5%, *seasonally adjusted*) but fewer women (-0.4%) were working in July.** Full-time employment (+1.0%) increased while the number of people with part-time jobs (-3.4%) was down in July. With fewer jobs in the education (-2.0%) and public administration (-1.2%) industries, public sector employment was down 0.8%. The number of people working in the private sector was unchanged in July, ending a three-month-long downturn. Self-employment increased 1.6%.

The youth unemployment rate fell to 7.8%, while the jobless rate for those aged 25 and over was unchanged at 3.8%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Among the regions, Vancouver Island/Coast (3.8%, *3-month moving average*) posted the lowest unemployment rate.** However, this rate masks big differences in the incidence of unemployment in this region. Victoria's unemployment rate was a very low 3.3%, while residents of Nanaimo (5.8%) were much more likely to be unemployed.

Jobless rates in Kootenay (3.9%) and Mainland/Southwest (4.4%) were also quite low. The northern and interior regions had the high-

Report British Columbia's Labour Force by Industry

Did you know...
Canadians get a minimum of 20 paid days off each year, less than in most other countries.
Finns get the most paid time off-starting at 44 days a year

est unemployment rates, ranging from 6.2% in Northeast to 6.9% in Cariboo and 7.5% in North Coast/Nechako. Among municipalities, Chilliwack (7.5%), Prince George (7.6%), Nanaimo (5.8%), Dawson Creek (5.7%), and Kamloops (5.1%) all had unemployment rates that were well above the provincial average.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued in British Columbia slipped 6.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June, as planned spending on both residential (-3.7%) and non-residential (-9.2%) projects declined.**

In Victoria (+28.5%) and Kelowna (+21.2%), the increase in permits was among the most significant in the country. At the same time, Vancouver (-13.4%) and Abbotsford (-16.2%) posted substantial decreases.

Nationally, permits dropped 5.3% with decreases in other provinces ranging from 7.5% in Alberta to 70.3% in PEI. Four provinces posted increases in July, the most notable of which was in Newfoundland (+19.1%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism

- **Room revenues in the province inched down 0.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April, declining for a third straight month.** The drop in revenues was largely due to a downturn in Mainland/Southwest (-1.3%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (-2.5%), which together account for about 70% of total room revenues. The decline was related to a significant downturn in revenues at hotels with 250 or more rooms (-4.8%). Most of these large hotels are located in the major population centres. Kootenay (-4.6%) and Cariboo (-0.4%) also posted declines, but other regions fared better. *Data Source: BC Stats*

- **Canadian hotel operators surveyed in July are less optimistic about their prospects than they were earlier in the year.** Just 14% expect occupancy rates to rise during the peak summer months, while nearly half (49%) are anticipating declines. Thirty-four percent of hoteliers expect to see an increase in room rates between July and September, but approximately the same percentage (31%) think they will drop. Opinions are fairly divided between those expecting an increase (12%) and those anticipating a decline (42%) in corporate and commercial travel; however, just under half (46%) foresee no change.

While 17% did not report any difficulties in the second quarter, the obstacles most frequently cited by those who had concerns were exchange rate fluctuations (53%), a shortage of unskilled (28%) or skilled (27%) labour, and general economic conditions (23%). Seventeen percent said a lack of attractions or complementary facilities in the vicinity was a problem, while a similar percentage felt that Canada's reputation as a desired tourist destination was a likely business impediment. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Education

- **Between 1999/2000 and 2005/2006, enrolment in BC's publicly funded elementary and secondary schools receded by 6.2%, well above the 3.0% decline in enrolment seen at the national level.** Among the nation's regions, only Alberta (+1.0%) reported an increase in the number of enrolments. Despite the decline in overall registration, enrolment for French immersion programs in public schools in BC soared (+26.8%) over the same period, more than four times the average national growth rate (+6.5%). The province's high school graduation rate was close to 75% in 2005/2006, relatively unchanged from 1999/2000. Graduation rates were highest in the Atlantic provinces and Saskatchewan, and lowest in Alberta and the territories.

On average, it cost $7,704 (current dollars) to educate a student in BC in 1999/2000 and this had risen to $9,798 by 2005/2006. Nationally, the average cost of educating a student was $9,704 in 2005/2006 with the lowest cost found in Prince Edward Island ($7,655 per student) and the highest in Yukon ($18,533 per student). *Data Source: SC Cat. #81-595-MIE*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

Contact: Data Services
250 387-0327
Originally published in
Census Fast Facts Issue 2006-11

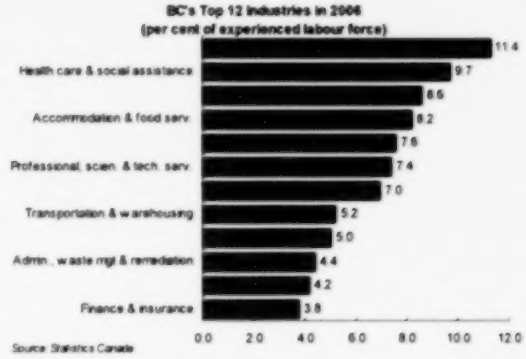
British Columbia's Labour Force by Industry

Industry Overview

In 2006, the size of British Columbia's experienced labour force[1] was 2.2 million, an increase of nearly 9 per cent from 2001 (over 178,000 persons).

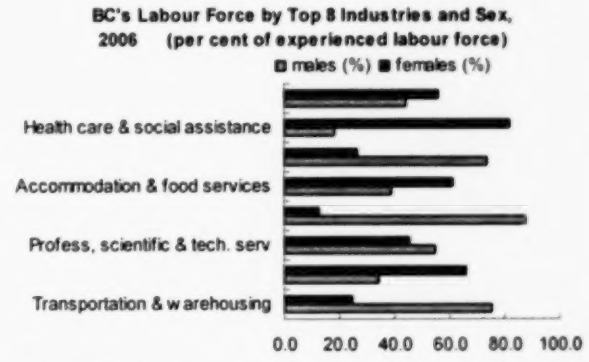
Almost four out of five labour force participants in the province either were or had recently been employed[2] in a service-producing industry in 2006. This is virtually unchanged from 2001.

The industries with the largest share of the work force in 2006 were retail trade, health care & social assistance, manufacturing, and accommodation & food services. The construction industry made the most gains since 2001, with an increase of 47,395 labour force participants, followed by the professional, scientific & technical services industry (+25,445) and the administrative & support, waste management & remediation services industry (+16,505). Labour force gains in these industries were partially offset by shrinking participation in manufacturing (-5,245), forestry & logging (-4,420), information & cultural industries (-3,280) and public administration (-2,205).



Men and Women

In 2006, men made up 52.5% of the experienced labour force. While men dominated goods-producing industries with 78.0% of the industries' workforce, women were more likely (54.3%) than men (45.7%) to work for a service-producing industry. Industries where male participation was strongest were construction (87.4%), mining (83.8%), forestry & logging (83.5%), transportation & warehousing (75.6), utilities (75.4%), manufacturing (73.7%) and wholesale trade (66.9%).



Source: Statistics Canada

[1] The labour force includes those who were either employed or unemployed (but looking for work) during the week prior to enumeration. The experienced labour force excludes labour force participants who have never worked or who have been unemployed since January 1, 2005 (about 1.5% of the total labour force in 2006). This analysis is based on the experienced labour force.

[2] Those not employed during the week prior to enumeration were assigned to the industry in which they had worked the longest since January 2005.

Compared to men, women had higher representation in the industries of health care & social assistance (81.8%), educational services (65.7%), finance & insurance (62.8%), accommodation &7 food services (60.9%) and retail trade (55.9%). The only goods-producing industry with a significant percentage of female workers was the agriculture industry, where 45.5% of the work force was female.

Source: Statistics Canada

Class of Worker

In 2006, wage earners comprised more than 85 per cent of the overall work force, with service-producing industries more likely (86.6%) than goods-producing industries (80.9%) to have employees.

Industries with high percentages of wage earners included utilities (98.3%), educational services (93.8%), finance & insurance (91.9%), accommodation & food services (91.9%), manufacturing (91.6%), mining (90.4%) and retail trade (90.4%). Fully 100% of public administration workers were wage earners.

The self-employed represented about 14 per cent of the experienced labour force. Industries with high incidences of self-employment were agriculture (35.0%), professional, scientific & technical services (30.8%), construction (28.3%), management of companies & enterprises (26.0%), arts, entertainment & recreation (24.0%), administration & support, waste management & remediation services (21.6%) and real estate and rental & leasing (21.3%).

In the category of "unpaid family workers", only the agriculture industry had a significant number (2.6%), and was the main contributor to the 0.5% shown for the goods-producing industries as a whole. The service-producing industries had slightly less (0.3%) unpaid family members in its work force.

Table 1: British Columbia's Labour Force by Industry, 2006 and 2001 *(both sexes, 15 years and over)*

North American Industry Classification System	2006 Census, NAICS 2002 * Experienced labour force [1]	% of labour force	2001 Census, NAICS 1997 * Experienced labour force [1]	% of labour force
All industries	2,193,115		2,014,600	
Goods-Producing Industries	**462,975**	**21.1**	**417,400**	**20.7**
11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	76,485	3.5	78,645	3.9
21 Mining and oil and gas extraction	20,020	0.9	14,040	0.7
22 Utilities	11,250	0.5	11,645	0.6
23 Construction	166,100	7.6	118,705	5.9
31-33 Manufacturing	189,120	8.6	194,365	9.6
Service-Producing Industries	**1,730,135**	**78.9**	**1,597,190**	**79.3**
41 Wholesale trade	92,020	4.2	82,465	4.1
44-45 Retail trade	248,955	11.4	232,960	11.6
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	114,915	5.2	114,180	5.7
51 Information and cultural industries	58,905	2.7	62,185	3.1
52 Finance and insurance	84,215	3.8	80,620	4.0
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	50,725	2.3	41,540	2.1
54 Professional, scientific and technical services	162,430	7.4	136,985	6.8
55 Management of companies and enterprises	3,100	0.1	1,370	0.1
56 Admin.& support, waste mgt & remediation serv.	97,310	4.4	80,805	4.0
61 Educational services	152,565	7.0	139,660	6.9
62 Health care and social assistance	213,090	9.7	200,065	9.9
71 Arts, entertainment and recreation	51,370	2.3	46,150	2.3
72 Accommodation and food services	180,055	8.2	167,130	8.3
81 Other services (except public administration)	109,895	5.0	98,285	4.9
91 Public administration	110,585	5.0	112,790	5.6
Special Aggregations:				
Agriculture and Support Activities	42,370	1.9	40,175	2.0
Forestry & Logging and Support Activities	28,880	1.3	33,300	1.7
Wood and Paper Product Manufacturing	52,745	2.4	62,360	3.1

[1] *Experienced Labour Force*: persons who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, were employed and the unemployed who had last worked for pay or in self?employment in either 2005 or 2006 (2000 or 2001 for 2001 Census). The job reported was the one held in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to enumeration if the person was employed, or the job of longest duration since January 1, 2005 (January 1, 2000 for 2001), if the person was not employed during the reference week. Persons with two or more jobs in the reference week were asked to provide information for the job at which they worked the most hours.

* The changes between the 1997 NAICS and the 2002 NAICS are minor and are entirely within the boundanes of the Sectors. None of the changes affect the structure of the classification.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-559-XCB2006023.ivt and Table 97-559-XCB2006009.ivt
Statistics Canada, 2001 Census, Table 97F0012XCB01009.ivt and Table 95F0383XCB01006.ivt

Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2008

Table 2: British Columbia's Labour Force by Industry and Sex, 2006 *(15 years and over)*

North American Industry Classification System 2002	Experienced labour force [1] (number)	Males (number)	Per cent of males in industry (%)	Females (number)	Per cent of females in industry (%)
All industries	2,193,115	1,151,410	52.5	1,041,710	47.5
Goods-Producing Industries	**462,970**	**361,160**	**78.0**	**101,820**	**22.0**
11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	76,485	51,385	67.2	25,100	32.8
21 Mining and oil and gas extraction	20,020	16,780	83.8	3,240	16.2
22 Utilities	11,250	8,480	75.4	2,770	24.6
23 Construction	166,095	145,130	87.4	20,970	12.6
31-33 Manufacturing	189,120	139,385	73.7	49,740	26.3
Service-Producing Industries	**1,730,135**	**790,250**	**45.7**	**939,890**	**54.3**
41 Wholesale trade	92,020	61,540	66.9	30,480	33.1
44-45 Retail trade	248,955	109,840	44.1	139,115	55.9
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	114,915	86,860	75.6	28,055	24.4
51 Information and cultural industries	58,905	33,580	57.0	25,325	43.0
52 Finance and insurance	84,215	31,350	37.2	52,865	62.8
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	50,725	26,735	52.7	23,990	47.3
54 Professional, scientific and technical services	162,430	88,860	54.7	73,570	45.3
55 Management of companies and enterprises	3,105	1,575	50.7	1,530	49.3
56 Admin.& support, waste mgt & remediation serv.	97,305	53,640	55.1	43,665	44.9
61 Educational services	152,565	52,360	34.3	100,205	65.7
62 Health care and social assistance	213,085	38,855	18.2	174,235	81.8
71 Arts, entertainment and recreation	51,370	25,865	50.4	25,500	49.6
72 Accommodation and food services	180,060	70,385	39.1	109,675	60.9
81 Other services (except public administration)	109,895	50,150	45.6	59,750	54.4
91 Public administration	110,585	58,655	53.0	51,930	47.0
Special Aggregations:					
Agriculture and Support Activities	42,370	23,085	54.5	19,285	45.5
Forestry & Logging and Support Activities	28,875	24,105	83.5	4,770	16.5
Wood and Paper Product Manufacturing	52,745	46,160	87.5	6,585	12.5

[1] *Experienced Labour Force*: persons who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006), were employed and the unemployed who had last worked for pay or in self?employment in either 2005 or 2006.
The job reported was the one held in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to enumeration (May 16, 2006) if the person was employed, or the job of longest duration since January 1, 2005, if the person was not employed during the reference week.
Persons with two or more jobs in the reference week were asked to provide information for the job at which they worked the most hours.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-559-XCB2006023.ivt and Table 97-559-XCB2006009.ivt

Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2008

Table 3: British Columbia's Labour Force by Class of Worker and Industry, 2006 *(both sexes, 15 years and over)*

North American Industry Classification System 2002	Experienced labour force [1]	Class of Worker by Per Cent of Industry: Wage earners	Self-employed	Unpaid family workers
All industries	2,193,115	85.4	14.3	0.3
Goods-Producing Industries	**462,975**	**80.9**	**18.5**	**0.5**
11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	76,485	70.7	27.7	1.6
21 Mining and oil and gas extraction	20,020	90.4	9.5	0.1
22 Utilities	11,250	98.3	1.7	-
23 Construction	166,100	71.2	28.3	0.5
31-33 Manufacturing	189,120	91.6	8.2	0.2
Service-Producing Industries	**1,730,135**	**86.6**	**13.1**	**0.3**
41 Wholesale trade	92,020	88.2	11.6	0.2
44-45 Retail trade	248,955	90.4	9.3	0.3
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	114,915	88.1	11.7	0.2
51 Information and cultural industries	58,905	88.3	11.5	0.2
52 Finance and insurance	84,215	91.9	7.9	0.2
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	50,725	78.2	21.3	0.5
54 Professional, scientific and technical services	162,430	68.8	30.8	0.4
55 Management of companies and enterprises	3,100	73.9	26.0	0.3
56 Admin.& support, waste mgt & remediation serv.	97,310	77.9	21.6	0.4
61 Educational services	152,565	93.8	6.1	0.1
62 Health care and social assistance	213,090	88.4	11.4	0.2
71 Arts, entertainment and recreation	51,370	75.7	24.0	0.3
72 Accommodation and food services	180,055	91.9	7.7	0.4
81 Other services (except public administration)	109,895	77.8	21.8	0.5
91 Public administration	110,585	100.0	-	-
Special Aggregations:				
Agriculture and Support Activities	42,370	62.4	35.0	2.6
Forestry & Logging and Support Activities	28,880	84.1	15.5	0.4
Wood and Paper Product Manufacturing	52,745	96.4	3.4	0.1

[1] *Experienced Labour Force: persons who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006), were employed* and the unemployed who had last worked for pay or in self-employment in either 2005 or 2006.
The job reported was the one held in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to enumeration (May 16, 2006) if the person was employed, or the job of longest duration since January 1, 2005, if the person was not employed during the reference week.
Persons with two or more jobs in the reference week were asked to provide information for the job at which they worked the most hours.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-559-XCB2006023.ivt and Table 97-559-XCB2006009.ivt

Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2008

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/08	% change on one year ago
BC	4,428.4	1.5
Canada	33,223.8	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 28)		
(BC - at market prices)	2007	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	190,214	5.5
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	163,200	3.1
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita)*	37,258	1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	24,728	3.0
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May	3,483	2.2
Merchandise Exports - May	2,826	10.4
Retail Sales - May	4,759	0.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jun 2008)	one year ago	% change
BC	3.0	1.6
Vancouver	3.1	1.8
Victoria	2.8	1.0
Canada	3.1	2.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Jun '08	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,432	0.3
Employed - BC	2,322	0.2
Unemployed - BC	110	1.7
		May '08
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.5	4.5
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.2	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 6/08	Aug 8/07
Prime Business Rate	4.75	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.95	7.05
- 5 year	7.15	7.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 6/08	Aug 8/07
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0470	1.0499
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9545	0.9536
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jun '08	% change on one year ago
BC	782.92	5.8
Canada	781.94	4.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Immigration & Diversity Profiles

The WelcomeBC site now features two series of graphic profiles based on the 2006 Census. Over 200 individual documents in each series reveal the characteristics of British Columbia, its regions, and communities.

Www.welcomebc.ca/en/growing_your_community/trends/2006/

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We now have two RSS feeds for our users. One provides updates for just our analytical articles; the other is for everything we do, including the analytical articles, but also announcements, data releases, and publications.

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Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Survey, July 2008
- Earnings and Employment Trends, July 2008

Next week

- Exports, June 2008

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